

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038913
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /029 R

DRAFTED BY IO:AHOLLOWAY:MR
APPROVED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN
AF?E:RCASTRODALE

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P 191610Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038913

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM ANNE HOLLOWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ

SUBJECT: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER OF TANZANIA

1. WHEN PRESIDENT NYERERE SHUFFLED HIS CABINET PORTFOLIOS LAST WEEK A SIGNIFICANT PERSON, BEN MKAPA, WAS NAMED TO HEAD FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS ABOUT 37 YEARS OLD.

2. FROM MY PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF SEVERAL YEARS, MKAPA WILL BE A REAL ASSET TO IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN TANZANIA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

3. HE HAS THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT WHO HAS PERSONALLY OVERSEEN ASPECTS OF MKAPA'S TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT. MKAPA IS A SEASONED JOURNALIST AND DIPLOMAT. HE IS MAN OF THE PEOPLE (WANANCHI) AND FULLY COMMITTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL POLICIES. MKAPA IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, VERY THOUGHTFUL, AND A
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SHREWD JUDGE OF HUMAN PERSONALITIES. HE IS AN ABLE ORATOR AND HANDLES THE NUANCES OF LANGUAGE, WHETHER IN SWAHILI OR ENGLISH, SKILLFULLY.

4. MKAPA IS A PRODUCT OF EAST AFRICA'S OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL CENTER, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE (UGANDA). HE DID GRADUATE STUDIES IN ENGLAND AND HOLDS AN MA IN ENGLISH LITERATURE. IN THE EARLY 60'S, HE SERVED AS A JUNIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER AT THE UN AND HAS AN INTIMATE WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE SECRETARIAT. HE IS EQUALLY FAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN LIFESTYLES AND POLITICAL REALITIES.

5. HE HAS SERVED AS EDITOR OF THE NATIONALIST (THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SWAHILI LANGUAGE DAILY) AND OF THE DAILY NEWS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) DURING THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S. IN 1972, HE ASSUMED NEW DUTIES AS PRESS SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT NYERERE AND QUICKLY BECAME OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR INTERPRETING GOVERNMENT POLICIES. HE ALSO TRAVELLED WIDELY WITH THE PRESIDENT BOTH ABROAD AND AT HOME.

6. IN 1975, MKAPA WAS ASKED BY PRESIDENT NYERERE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHIHATA, TANZANIA'S OFFICIAL PRESS SYNDICATION (LIKE UPI OR AP) TO THE ENTIRE DEVELOPING WORLD. THIS POST CAN BE VIEWED AS ONE OF GREAT SENSITIVITY AND AN INDICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HIGH REGARD.

7. FOLLOWING THE BREAK-THROUGH STATE VISIT OF NYERERE TO NIGERIA LAST OCTOBER, THE PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT BY POSTING MKAPA AS TANZANIA'S AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS (NOV-JAN).

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038913

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 038913 ACTION USUN 19 FEB QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
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Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AHOLLOWAY:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER OF TANZANIA
TAGS: PFOR, TZ, (MKAPA, BEN)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d954f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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